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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY (FRANK); BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA; EUR/WE (DEBORAH MENNUTI)/P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA (BERBENA); INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA (ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA; ROME/PA; BRUSSELS/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION GUANTANAMO AIRBUS-BOEING AGREEMENT PARIS - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [11. MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION](#)
- [12. GUANTANAMO](#)
- [13. AIRBUS-BOEING AGREEMENT](#)

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN CARRIES PRESIDENT BUSH'S OP-ED ON THE INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI, IN WHICH HE CONVEYS HIS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S COMPASSION FOR THE VICTIMS AND PROMISES LONG-LASTING AID. THE OP-ED IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED, INCLUDES A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRESIDENT AND IS TITLED "OUR COMMITMENT WILL BE LONG-LASTING." THE OP-ED IS ANNOUNCED IN A FRONT-PAGE SIDEBAR: "IN A LETTER TO OUR PAPER, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT CONVEYS HIS LONG-LASTING COMMITMENT TO HELPING THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI."

UNDERNEATH THE OP-ED HENRI VERNET COMMENTS: "IT IS A RARE OCCASION WHEN PRESIDENT BUSH SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO A COUNTRY OTHER THAN HIS OWN. IF HE HAS CHOSEN TO DO THIS AT THIS TIME, IT IS BECAUSE THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS HIT SOUTH ASIA IS OF AN UNPRECEDENTED MAGNITUDE. IT MAY ALSO BE BECAUSE THE INITIAL U.S. REACTION TO THE TRAGEDY WAS VERY MUCH CRITICIZED, WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE FRONT LINES. TO COUNTER THIS CRITICISM, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DECIDED TO EXPLAIN AMERICA'S ACTIONS TO WORLD OPINION DIRECTLY."

THE OP-ED WAS MENTIONED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, TWO RADIO STATIONS, EUROPE 1 AND RTL, FRANCE 2 TELEVISION AND THE ALL-NEWS TELEVISION STATION LCI.

FRONT-PAGES OF TODAY'S MAJOR DAILIES ARE DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC SOCIAL ISSUES, WHILE THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PRESS DEVOTE THEIR LEAD STORIES TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN AIRBUS AND BOEING. "THE U.S. AND EUROPE SIGN AN ARMISTICE" HEADLINES LES ECHOS WHILE LA TRIBUNE TITLES "NEGOTIATIONS ON TRACK IN THE BOEING-AIRBUS DISPUTE." THE EDITORIAL NEVERTHELESS SUGGESTS THAT BEFORE AN "ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE IS REACHED, THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE AN EXERCISE SIMILAR TO A HIGH WIRE ACT." (SEE PART C)

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE DEVOTES ITS EDITORIAL TO THE DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO BAY, "A ZONE OUTSIDE THE LAW" AND A "LEGAL MONSTER." (SEE PART C) LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION CARRIES A FULL-PAGE REPORT ON THE TRIAL OF CHARLES GRANER FOR HIS CONDUCT IN THE ABU GHARAIB PRISON. THE ARTICLE CARRIES THE CONTROVERSIAL PICTURE OF THE PRISONERS' PYRAMID. IN A REPORT ON THE GROWING VIOLENCE IN IRAQ POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR ASKS: "AFTER THE ELECTIONS, CHAOS?"

MANY REPORTS CONTINUE TO BE DEVOTED TO THE AFTERMATH OF MAHMUD ABBAS'S ELECTION AND TO SHARON'S PHONE CALL TO THE NEWLY-ELECTED PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT. IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO ALEXANDRE ADLER EXPLAINS WHAT SHARON CAN REASONABLY EXPECT FROM THE PALESTINIANS IN THE SHORT TERM. (SEE PART C) LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN OP-ED PENNED BY FORMER MIDDLE EAST ENVOY DENNIS ROSS, TITLED "BETWEEN ABBAS AND SHARON, HOSNI MUBARAK." "PRESIDENT MUBARAK SUPPORTED ABBAS. AND DECLARED THAT SHARON MAY BE THE MAN WHO CAN BRING PEACE. WE AMERICANS NEED TO COLLABORATE WITH THE EUROPEANS. THERE IS AN OPENING. A HISTORIC MOMENT WHICH MAY NOT LAST. IF WE DO NOT GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY IT MAY BE LOST FOR A LONG TIME."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION

"WHAT CAN WE FEAR, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?" ALEXANDRE ADLER IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (01/12): "A SINGLE QUESTION COMES TO MIND: WILL HE SUCCEED? WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY HE WILL, BUT MANY OTHER PLAYERS, INCLUDING THE 'BAD GUYS,' WILL HAVE A SAY: HEZBOLLAH, TEHERAN AND HAMAS. STILL, THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK MAY BE ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO ARE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH TOO SOON FROM ABBAS. PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS

CAN GIVE A LOT ON SECURITY ISSUES, THROUGH A SUBTLE BLEND OF FORCE AND CUNNING. MUCH CAN BE ASKED OF THEM, BUT NOTHING PUBLICLY."

#### GUANTANAMO

##### "GUANTANAMO, YEAR IV"

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE IN ITS UNSIGNED EDITORIAL (01/12): "THE VENUE OF GUANTANAMO WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT CAME UNDER NO JURISDICTION, NEITHER THE U.S. NOR THE CUBAN ONE. THE PENTAGON'S INTENTION, APPROVED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, WAS TO CREATE A ZONE THAT WOULD STAND OUTSIDE THE LAW, WHERE ALLEGED AL-QAEDA COMBATANTS COULD BE DETAINED, AND ABOVE ALL INTERROGATED WITHOUT JUDICIAL CONTROL. A PENTAGON SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 6 THAT AMONG THE DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO, AROUND 25 PERCENT HAD SOME 'VALUE' IN TERMS OF INTELLIGENCE. EVEN IF THIS WAS REASON ENOUGH TO DETAIN THEM, WHAT SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT THE OTHER 75 PERCENT? WHAT ARE THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM? BEFORE WHAT JURISDICTION WILL THEY BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE CHARGES AND WHEN? .

FBI DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE REVEALED THAT INTERROGATION PROCEDURES IN GUANTANAMO INCLUDED VIOLENCE. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, THE ONLY ENTITY ALLOWED BY THE U.S. TO WATCH OVER THE CONDITIONS OF DETENTION, HAD IN NOVEMBER 2004 CALLED ATTENTION TO METHODS WHICH WERE 'EQUIVALENT TO TORTURE.'

THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS CREATED A LEGAL MONSTER IN GUANTANAMO BAY. THEY MUST PUT AN END TO THE SITUATION, QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY, BY LIBERATING THOSE DETAINEES WHOSE FILES ARE EMPTY AND BY CHARGING THE REST BEFORE ORDINARY COURTS OF LAW."

#### AIRBUS-BOEING AGREEMENT

##### "A HIGH WIRE ACT"

PASCAL AUBERT IN CENTRIST LA TRIBUNE (01/12): "RATHER THAN GOING BEFORE THE WTO, THE U.S. AND EUROPE HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY OF WISDOM. NEITHER SIDE APPEARS EAGER TO LET THE TRADE SHERIFF PUT ITS NOSE IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT REACHED IN 1992. FOR BOTH WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS, THE LEAST BAD SOLUTION IS STILL A TWO-SIDED AGREEMENT. HAVING MADE THE SAME ANALYSIS, BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC HAVE OPTED FOR A TRUCE. BUT WHAT REMAINS TO BE FOUND IS AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE AN EXERCISE SIMILAR TO A HIGH WIRE ACT. THE POSITIONS ARE STILL SO FAR APART, THAT THE OUTCOME IS NOT GUARANTEED. THE FIRST CONDITION IS FINDING A COMMON LANGUAGE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO SPEAKING ABOUT AID AND COMPETITION. THE AMERICANS SPEAK OF AIRBUS'S 'UNFAIR' SUBSIDIES, AND BOEING'S LEGITIMATE AID. ANOTHER CONDITION FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS IS THE NEED FOR STRICT EQUALITY OF TREATMENT, SINCERE AND VERIFIABLE AT ALL TIMES. SO AS TO REACH A REGIME THAT IS TRANSPARENT AND WILL AVOID FUTURE DISPUTES." LEACH